

# The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, November 21. 1693.

**Quest. 1.** I Have been Married to a Man now almost thirteen Years, he having had two Children by me, and without the least Impediment, Affront, Wrong or Injury done to his Bed by me, or otherwise, hath thought fit to leave me, and has accordingly left me for these seven Years last past, to my shifts, being wholly destitute of any Subsistence or Relief from him, (otherwise than in Service, which I have been in ever since, purely to maintain my self, and keep me from Want or other Inconveniencies, my two Children being Dead) and he has been Married to another Woman, to my knowledge, about seven Years last past, and who hath had several Children by him likewise: Now this Husband of mine (I being his first Wife) is in a very good place, in Service, and lives in very good Fashion, and able to help me. This being the real Case on my part, I do assure you, *Gentlemen*, therefore your Directions is humbly desired to this particular Case, and earnestly Crave your speedy Answer to the following Queries; I depending and waiting upon your Resolutions, and deferre Prosecution of my Affairs 'till then.

**Query 1.** *What I may lawfully do as to detest the Injury done to me, in leaving me, and taking to him another Wife, which he ought not to have done, being Commanded to the contrary by the Divine Law as well as the Law of the Land?*

**Query 2.** *What Punishment may be justly inflicted upon him, and what Course I may take as to my Subsistence or Allowance from him, as Alimony, (if that)?*

**Query 3.** *Whether I may not Sue him in the Prerogative Court for a Divorce, that I may be free from him, and take to me another Husband, (if part so)? And,*

**Query 4.** *Whether I had not better Prosecute the Rigour of the Law against him?*

**Ans. 1.** If he is in such a way as he may be able to make you any Allowance towards your Maintenance, it will be very Just and Prudent for you to force him to it; but as for any other reparation, We see none you can expect; for a Man that is openly so wicked, will make no great Scruple to continue so, nor will whatsoever you can do signifie any thing farther than you can Compel him, for to be sure he has no great Love for you; tho' it may be the Family wherein he lives may not be acquainted with his manner of Life, and perhaps wou'd not Countenance him if they knew it; and if so, a little threatening of him to discover it, may make him the more willing to do something for you.

**Ans. 2.** We think it better for you to think of doing your self what Service you can, (than of being revenged on him) which you may do by Law, if this other Method, nor the Perswasions of Friends won't prevail with him to make you an Allowance answerable to his Circumstances.

**Ans. 3.** You may lawfully Sue out a Divorce, because he has broken the Contract of your Marriage; but if you do, you cannot Marry while he lives, and will have only this Advantage by it, that he can no longer pretend any Right or Title to what shall be given you, or what you your self may get.

**Ans. 4.** 'Tis better to put all up as quietly as may be, only considering your own Interest, for though it wou'd be but Just, yet it looks a little like Malice, and you'd only expose him it may be to be Burnt in the Hand, or some such Business, without any Advantage to your self; for 'tis not improbable but that the Woman he now lives with may deny her Marriage to save his Life, though We think he very well deserves Hanging, and With all had it that breaks the Law in such a manner.

**Quest. 2.** Sometime since two of my Acquaintance

happened to have a most terrible falling out, which was after this Manner.

They having of late been very great Friends and keeping Company very often, one had lent the other Money at several times (in paying reckonings, and sometimes in ready Money, &c.) about forty five Shillings, and afterwards some difference arising between them, and not keeping Company so frequently as before; the Creditor demands his Money, which the Debtor spoke very slightly of and would give no satisfactory Answer to it, after which the other gave out in Speeches to several, that he would Arrest the Debtor for his Money, which coming to his Ears, he, and my self, after two or three days goes to his Creditors House, and desires him to go and drink with him (seemingly in very great Friendship) which the Creditor agreed to, and we went to a publick House, where after some Discourse, (not relating to the abovesaid matter) I went down on necessary Occasions, expecting they would fairly fight it out; but the Debtor rising up goes to the Creditor, who was sitting in a Chair with both his hands in his Bosom (thinking nothing of a quarrel) and standing between his Legs seemingly in a more than ordinary friendly manner, and throwing off his Hat and Wigg (under pretence of being very hot) without speaking one Word of the Business, he thrusts both his double Fists and Head in his Creditors Face, overthrowing him and the Chair, and then pursuing his Strokes, before the other could recover his almost stunn'd Sences; but afterwards his Creditor beat him most intollerably, till the People of the House and I coming up parted them, upon which the Creditor slipt out of the Room, and got a couple of Serjeants, who Arrested the Debtor before he got out of the Room, upon two Actions, one for the Debt, and the other for an Assault and Battery in forty Shillings Damages, to which he gave Bail, and afterwards by Treaties, and Expressions of Sorrow in Abundance, for what he had done, and giving him a Note for 50 s. got the Creditor to give him a general Release, and withall desiring him not to tell the manner of the Scuffle by no means, which the Creditor promised, but the Debtor since hath very much abused the Creditor, whose Eyes were so battered that he was forced to have a Plaister over one two or three days, I believe further and greater Mischief may ensue. Your Thoughts upon it.

**Query,** *Whether the Debtor may not in Justice be dealt with far worse, if not Pistoll'd for such scandalous and cowardly Dealings, and for ought I know nothing but your Answer may prevent these Resolutions?*

**Ans.** The Creditor has given a sufficient Testimony of his Goodness and Generosity, in being so willing to forgive, and make up the difference between them; but the others Baseness and Cowardice has Cancelled all Obligations of Civility towards him, he deserving to be prosecuted with all the just Indignation possible, and the Creditor can no other way right himself, than by declaring how unlike a Gentleman the Debtor has Acted, referring it to you and those other Persons, that were Witnesses to testifie the Truth of his Innocency and the Debtors unheard of Ingratitude. But as for the Pistolling of him, 'twou'd be too dear to purchase the Death of a Villain, by that of an honest Mans. Nor can his scandals be any longer Injurious, when Persons are made sensible of his perfidy.

**Quest. 3.** *I have the offer of three Maids of Fortune answerable to my self, the first very Fair but a very Fool; the Second Marvellous Witty, but Marvellous Wanton; the third as Vertuous as any Living, but more deformed than*



than any Person in the World. I desire your Counsel, which you will Advise me to take for my Comfort?

*Ans.* 'Tis no strange thing that you should be confounded in your choice, when you have three such advantageous Offers, for you can't miss of good Fortune with either; for as to the first there's your sight satisfied, and no doubt but many a Man will envy you her good Face. The second pleases your Ear, besides what other Benefits may be had from a Wife of a free Temper, and 'tis not improbable but you may get something more by her than her Fortune. And then for the third, there you need not be afraid of being made a Cuckold, but shall surely have her all to your self. Thus you'll be no Loser by either, though without you can Indent with the Fair One always to wear a Vail, 'twill be a Bold Adventure to take her, for she'll be too Innocent to deny any Gentleman a Courtesie: Then for the Frolicksome Lass, if a pair of Horns won't down well with you, ye had best e'en let her alone, and Wed with the third; for Virtue and other good qualities will at any time atone for the Want of Beauty.

*Quest. 4.* I am a younger Brother, and not having where-withall to maintain my self like a Gentleman, without some honest Employment, my Friends are very willing to please me, and let me choose what I like best, I am fully resolv'd to be an Attorneys Clark or a Souldier, but know not which to choose, (having my Friends Consent for either) first desiring your Advice?

*Ans.* Either of them are very Honourable Employes, and both alike dangerous to your Virtue, tho' 'tis not impossible to be honest in either. Which you are best qualified for, is fittest for you: If your Wit is sharp, and you Love Books, then follow the Law; but if you are better pleas'd with Action than Study, and find Courage is not wanting in your Composition, then a Souldiers Life will be most agreeable: And if you are Honest and Just, and do your Duty, in either Post you may be happy.

*Quest. 5.* I am Married, God knows, and against my Relations Consent, and to my Sorrow have got a peevish, angry, froward, humorsom, simple Man, who when he's Cross'd abroad or at home, revenges himself on me with Weapons, which are the Pot, the Candlestick, the Knife, the Standish, or any thing comes next to hand, with great Violence and without Mercy; he throws with an unlucky hand at me, seldom misses, whilst poor I sit like an Innocent Lamb in the Corner, and take all things patiently as they come, having neither Will nor Courage to resist, nor none to help me, except I chance to have a hearty Maid-servant, as sometimes I have, who can easily hold and disarm him in spite of his Teeth, but then he spits and sputters at me, and shows his Teeth, although he cannot bite. Your Friendly Advice is desired — How I shall Behave and Manage my self for the future, to make my self more Happy and Comfortable?

*Ans.* Then here it seems the Case is changed, and the Woman has got an Un-thinking Noisie thing instead of the Man, yet you may the more patiently bear it, considering how many of your Sex serve us so, and to find here and there an unreasonable Husband is no great Wonder; besides, yours is only a little Testy, and wants but scratching and tickling, and you'd find him as quiet a Lamb as your self, for he

uses you thus to stir up your Love, and if you wou'd but give him due Attendance, and Comb his Head now and then with a Joint-stool, he'd prove one of the towardliest Creatures in Christendom.

### Advertisements.

**T**HE COMPLEAT LIBRARY for July, August, September and October, will be Publisht next Monday.

**T**his is to give Notice, that Mrs. Norridge, now lodges at the *Blew Ball* in *Exeter-street* in the Strand, who hath an infallible Powder for the Stone and Gravel, which great Secret her Father, Dr. Duncan, left her at his Deceale, who practis'd Physick for the space of sixty Years, and lived till the Age of Eighty Eight. This Powder never fails the Stone in the Kidneys, which is certainly known by the violent Pain in the lower part of the Back or the Side, and an Inclination to Vomit, and stoppage of Urine, and if they have not a singular Medicine to bring away the Stone, it oftentimes pitches in the Ureter, and stops the Urine quite, and then the Case is desperate and dangerous. One Dose of this Powder generally both gives Ease, and brings away the Stone, but if the Stone be larger than usual, and the Party weak before they get this Medicine, it may require two Papers. This Powder is Sealed up in Ten Shilling Papers; one Paper to be taken at once in a Glas of *White-wine* and *Water* mixed, when the Pains is upon them, for the Stone in the Kidneys.

And to satisfie those that are timorous, both for the Safety and Success of the above-named Powder, they may enquire at these places following, viz. Of the Vile-Countess *Lainsbury* in *Pall-Mall*, concerning a poor Woman at *Tunbridge-Wells*: Of Mr. *Gilbert*, Parliament-man for *Darby-shire*, and his Lady, who both experienced it, they Lodge at Mrs. *Devereux's* House in little *Deans-Tard*, *Westminster*: At Justice *Lawrence's*, at his House in *Marybone-street*, near *Golden Square*: Mr. *Grimbold Paunceforte*, Counsellor, at his House in *Red-Lyon-Square*: Mr. *Alexander* at the *Scarlet Hood* in *Nags-head-Court* in *Grace-Church-street*: Mr. *Simkins*, at the *Ship Coffee-House* in *Crouched-Friers*: *Mary Grimes*, near the *Old Barge-House* in *Southwark*. With several others.

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**W**hereas many in City and Countrey have much Complained that they knew not where to have those excellent Pills, called *Matthew's Pills* duely prepared, whose singular Usefulness they have experienced in provoking Sweat and Urine, and giving Relief in the most Cruel Pains, Colds and Coughs, &c. are faithfully Prepared and Sold at the first House on the right hand in *Gun-yard* in *Houndsditch*, near *Aldgate*, *London*.

**I**n *Grays-Inn-lane* in *Plow-yard*, the third Door, lives Dr. *Thomas Kirlew*, a Collegiate Physician, and Sworn Physician in Ordinary to King *Charles the Second*, until his death; who with a Drink and Pill (hindring no Business) undertakes to Cure any Ulcers, Sores, Swellings in the Nose, Face, or other parts; Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Leprosies, and Venereal Disease, expecting nothing until the Cure be finished: Of the last he hath cured many hundreds in this City, many of them after fluxing, which carries the evil from the Lower Parts to the Head, and so destroys many. The Drink is 3 s. the Quart, the Pill 1 s. a Box, with Directions; a better Purger than which was never given, for they cleanse the Body of all Impurities, which are the causes of Dropsies, Gouts, Scurvies, Stone or Gravel, Pains in the Head, and other parts. Take heed whom you Trust in Physick, for it's become a Common Cheat to profess it. He gives his Opinion to all that writes or comes or nothing.